

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

The Theological Seminary at Princeton has 111 students.

It is proposed to abolish the evening high schools in Boston.

At Harvard last year, the Chinese course cost \$4,000; 15; the fees received amounted to \$3,000.

There is a movement in Indianapolis to cut down the course of study and shorten the hours in the public schools on the ground of the overwork of the pupils.

The Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanics Arts has been in operation for twelve years and has graduated 134 students. The college is said to have a permanent fund of \$131,360 6c.

The teachers in the public schools of New Orleans are said to be in actual want. They have received one cent of their salaries. *The Democrat* declares, since last July, One reason of this shameful state of affairs is said to be that the citizens do not pay their \$1 poll tax.

The Boston School Committee has been obliged to ask the City Council, for funds, to carry on the schools during the remainder of the financial year. The Council so reduced the estimates last winter that by the first of the coming month there will be no money for salaries.

It is proposed to transfer the road, wall, library, museum, and all useful appliances of Astiach College at Yellow Springs to the Ohio State University at Columbus, and to sell the buildings and other property of the college to the State to be used as a benevolent institution.

The Massachusetts Legislature has received a petition from 233 Boston teachers asking for a law allowing school committees to elect teachers for a term of years, or during good behavior. *The Boston Post* advocates election for a term of ten years with a preliminary year of probation.

A meeting has just been held at Harvard to organize a "Harvard Legislature," the object of which will be to discuss questions in a parliamentary form, to obtain a knowledge of practical legislation, and to have some experience in committee work. There will be two officers, Speaker and Clerk, and every member will have a place on a committee. This is not a bad idea for a university of sounding senates.

The State of Virginia is in arrears to its School Fund to the extent of \$127,511 48—which amount is exclusive of interest due for several years past. The interest brings it up to \$160,000. *The Wheling Intelligencer* says with truth that the State has no business to be a borrower from the School Fund. That fund should be sacred and inviolable as it was intended to be in its organization. The Constitution of the State expressly forbids the use of the income to be applied to any other purpose than public instruction.

The freshness of most of the subjects just given out by the Yale faculty for the prize essays of the Sophomore's second term is much to be commended. *The Tribune* for a long time has suggested the abolition of the antiquated subjects offered in colleges. The subjects just announced are as follows:

1. The Indians—What shall be done with them? 2. A Fool's Errand—The story of Tom Moore's Love. 3. Queen's Theory of Crook Tragedy. 4. General Robert E. Lee. 5. Christopher North and his Friends. 6. St. Paul. 7. Dr. Johnson's Influence on the Literature of his Day. 8. A Poem original. 10. American Humor. 11. A True Autobiography. 12. Physical and Mental Culture, or Human Development.

The school population of Illinois, according to the last school census, was 1,012,851, and the whole number of pupils enrolled last year was 704,011. The State has 11,904 public schools and 22,255 teachers. Male teachers receive an average monthly salary of \$41 92, female teachers an average salary of \$31 80. Private schools last year were attended by 69,110 pupils, who were instructed by 1,437 teachers. The "illiterates" of the State numbered only 4,151. The total amount spent for education was \$6,631,758 74, and the total expenditure \$7,531,941. The cost per capita upon average daily attendance was \$18 97. The permanent public instruction fund of the State amounts to \$9,365,486 93. There are 110 high schools, which last year graduated 924 pupils. The bonded school debt amounts to \$3,436,394 14.

The report of State Superintendent Basley of Florida shows that the condition of the common schools in that State is encouraging. In spite of a revenue diminished by the reduction of the county tax, a greater number of schools have been operated in the past two years. The total number of schools reported during the past year—1,131—shows an increase of 234 in the last three years. The aggregate attendance was 39,315. The total amount expended for school purposes was \$14,895 31. There were 675 male and 429 female teachers employed, with averages & salaries ranging in the different counties from \$72 to \$5 a month. This last average of \$5 was earned in Suwannee County. The reduction of the county tax has necessarily decreased the average length of term. The Peabody fund has provided the State with ten scholarships in the Normal Department of Nashville University. The plan adopted four years ago of allowing county authorities to select the text-books has not worked well, and the Superintendent recommends that textbooks should be uniform over the State, and should be selected by the State Education Department. A resolution, introduced by Mr. Haynes, provides that in Florida such little importance is attached to the Office of County Superintendent that men have sometimes been selected without any reference to their fitness for the position. The schools, of course, have suffered from this. Florida has never had any teacher institutes until within the past two years. The Normal College is much wanted. The Superintendent recommends that, in counties where the colored element is large, both races be represented on the County School Board. He reports that the previous unkindly feeling in the State against the public schools has in a great measure given way to a strong sentiment in their favor.

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